

# Meigs County Telegraph.

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL—DEVOTED TO POLITICS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, AND NEWS.

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## Original Poetry.

For the Meigs County Telegraph.  
THOU HAST CHANGED.

BY R. H. CULP, ESQ.  
Thou hast changed—all sad and to remember—  
From what thou wast in days that are past;  
But round that shrine will still linger  
A thought of thee, 'till the last.

Thou hast changed; then rose of the summer;  
Bright hues are no longer thine, now;  
And nought from thee's heard but deep murmurs,  
While gloom shades that fair marble brow.

Thou hast changed; the roses are now broken—  
Gay idols have been there, I rove;  
Those words thou so faintly had spoken,  
Sink deep in this wounded heart, now.

Thou hast changed; it seems but an hour  
Since first thy fair form I met;  
'Twas then I was struck by thy power,  
And that deep wound is still bleeding yet.

Thou hast changed; for you vowed ever constant;  
'E'en but friendship's fair ties were to prove,  
But, oh, those vows have proved transient  
As evening or morning's bright dew.

Thou art changed! Oh, God, must I lose thee,  
And be severed from that precious prize?  
Will those eyes, angel-like, now deceive me,  
That have spoke love 'neath night's starry skies.

Art thou changed? I fear, then, forever  
May angelic pathway attend;  
May fate thy path darken never,  
Bright little, my once angel friend!

CLEVELAND, O., July 4th, 1859.

## Miscellany.

### THE WIFE'S EXPERIMENT.

"Ma, why don't you ever dress up?"

asked little Nellie Thornton, as her mother

finishing brushing the child's hair, and

tying her clean apron. There was a mo-

mentary surprise on Mrs. Thornton's face,

but she answered carelessly: "Oh, no

one cares how I look."

"Don't Pa love to see you look pretty?"

persisted the child. The mother did not

reply, but involuntarily she glanced at

herself, the faded and worn calico

dress and dingy apron, both bearing wit-

ness to an intimate acquaintance with the

dish-pan and stove—the slipshod shoes

and soiled stockings—and she could not

help remembering how she had that morn-

ing appeared with unbecoming hair, and

prepared her husband's breakfast before

he left home for the neighboring market-

town. "Sure enough," mused she, "how

I do look!" And then memory pointed

back a few years to a neatly and tastefully

dressed maiden, sometimes busy in her

father's house, again mingling with her

young companions, but never untidy in

her appearance, always fresh and bloom-

ing, and this she knew, full well, was a

picture of herself when Charles Thornton

first won her young heart. Such was the

bride he had taken to his pleasant home—

how had mature life fulfilled the prophecy

of youth?

She was still comely in features, graceful

in form, but few could call her handsome

or an accomplished woman; for, alas, all

other characteristics were overshadowed

by this repulsive trait. Yet she loved to

barrier between her and the one she best  
loved on earth. True, he never chided  
her—never apparently noticed her altered  
appearance—but she well knew he no longer  
urged her going into society, nor did  
he seem to care about receiving his friends  
at his own house, although he was a social  
man, and had once felt proud to introduce  
his young wife to his large circle of ac-

quaintances.  
Now, they seldom went out together ex-  
cepting to church, and even dressing for  
that was generally too much of an effort  
for Mrs. Thornton—she would stay at  
home "to keep house," after preparing her  
little ones to accompany their father, and  
the neighbors soon ceased expecting to  
meet her at public worship or in their so-

cial gatherings—and so, one by one, they  
neglected to call on her until but very few  
of the number continued to exchange  
friendly civilities with her. She had  
wondered at this, had felt mortified and  
pained heretofore, now she clearly saw it  
was her own fault, the veil was removed  
from her eyes, and the mistake of her life  
was revealed in its true enormity. Sinc-

erely did she repent of her past error,  
calmly and seriously resolve on future and  
immediate amendment.

Meanwhile her hands were not idle, and  
at length the metamorphosis was complete.  
The bright pink drapery lung gracefully  
about her form, imparting an unusual bri-

liancy to her complexion—her best  
wrought collar was fastened with a costly  
brooch, her husband's wedding gift, which  
had not seen the light for many a day.

Glancing once more at her mirror, to be

certain her toilette needed no more finish-

ing touches, she took her sewing, and  
went to the sitting room.

Little Nellie had weaved of her picture

book, and was now playing with the kitten.

As Mrs. Thornton entered she clasped her

hands in childish delight, exclaiming,  
"Oh, ma, how pretty—pretty!" and run-

ning to her kissed her again and again,  
then drew her little chair close to her side,

and eagerly watched her as she pined her

needle, repairing the gingham dress.

Just before it was completed, Nellie's

brothers came from school, and pausing at

the half opened door, Willie whispered

to Charlie, "I guess we've got company,

for mother's all dressed up." It was with

mingled emotions of pleasure and pain that

Mrs. Thornton observed her children were

unusually docile and obedient, hastening

to perform their accustomed duties with-

out being even reminded of them. Child-

ren are natural and unaffected lovers of

the beautiful, and their intuitive percep-

tions will not often suffer from compar-

ison with the opinions of mature worldly

wisdom. It was with a new feeling of ad-

miratation that these children now looked

upon their mother and to consider it a

privilege to do something for her. It was,

"let me see the kindlings!" "I will make

the fire!" and "may I fill the tea-kettle?"

—instead of, as was sometimes the case,

"need I do it?"—"I don't want to!"—"

why can't Willie?"

Nellie was too small to render much as-

sistance, but she often turned from her

frolic with her kitten, to look at her

mother, and utter some childish remark

expressive of joy and love. At last the

clock struck the hour when Mr. Thornton

was expected, and his wife proceeded to

place the table with unusual care, and to  
lay thereon several choice viands of which  
she knew he was particularly fond.  
Meanwhile let us form the acquaintance  
of the absent husband and father, whom  
we find in the neighboring town just com-

pleting his day's traffic. He is a fine-

looking, middle-aged man, with an unmis-

takeable wrinkle of kindly feeling in his eye,

and the lines of good humor plainly trace-

d about his mouth—we know at a glance

that he is cheerful and indulgent in his

family, and are at once prepossessed in his

favor. As he is leaving the store, where

he has made his last purchase for the day,

he is accosted by a tall gentleman just en-

tering the door. He recognizes an old

friend, and exclaims: George Morton, is it

you? The greeting is mutually cordial;

they were friends in boyhood and early

youth, but since Mr. Morton had been

practicing law in a distant city, had sel-

dom met, and this is no place to exchange

their many questions and answers. Mr.

Thornton's fine span of horses and light

"democrat" are standing near by, and it

needs but little persuasion to induce Mr.

Morton to accompany his friend to his

home, which he has never yet visited.

The conversation is lively and spirited—

they recall the feats of their school days,

the experience of after life, and compare

their present position in the world, with

the golden future of which they used to

dream. Mr. Morton is a bachelor, and

very fastidious in his taste—as that class

of individuals are prone to be. The recol-

lection of this flashes on Mr. Thornton's

mind as they drive along towards their

destination. At once his zeal in the dia-

logue abates, he becomes thoughtful and

silent, and does not urge his team onward,

but seems willing to afford Mr. Morton an

opportunity to admire the beautiful scenery

on either hand—the hills and valleys ad-

orned in the fresh verdure of June, while

the lofty mountain ranges look blue and

dim in the distance. He cannot help won-

dering if they will find his wife in the same

sorry predicament which he left her that

morning, and involuntary shivers from in-

## Communicated.

For the Meigs County Telegraph.  
Athens County Normal Institute.

This Institute was organized on the  
11th of July, 1859, by appointing Prof.  
Robert Allen, Principal, and J. M. Good-

speed, A. B., as Secretary. The session  
was continued during a term of three  
weeks, and was well attended by the

teachers of Athens, and of the several ad-  
joining counties.  
The lectures delivered before the In-

stitute were highly interesting, and most ad-  
mirably calculated to serve the purposes of  
the teacher. Prof. Allen and Prof. Young,

of the Ohio University; also, Prof. Doan,  
of the Athens Union School, and others,  
deserve the thanks of the members of the

Institute for the unchanging interest they  
manifested in its progress during the en-  
tire session.

The Managing Committee was particu-  
larly fortunate in procuring the services  
of Prof. Robt. Kidd, of Cincinnati, as

teacher of elocution; as, also, those of  
Prof. Isaac Bates, of the Iron City College,  
who had charge of the writing department.

Prof. Kidd not only stands in the front  
rank of his profession as a practical Elocu-  
tionist, but, as a teacher of his art, he is

altogether unrivalled. We hope his in-  
structions will long be remembered by  
those who have been so fortunate as to re-

ceive them; and especially should they be  
put into practice, as being not only con-  
ducive to mental, but also to physical

health. Elocution and gymnastics are  
subjects of too frequent negligence in our  
Common Schools; but we hope the time

will come when they will receive that at-  
tention which their importance certainly  
demands. Prof. Bates is a complete pen-

man. His system is short and simple, but  
yet is not lacking in beauty. As a rapid  
writer, he has no superior, and as a

teacher of this useful and ornamental art,  
he has not his equal in the Union. He  
leaves Athens to attend an Institute at

Urbana.  
Evening lectures were delivered at times  
during the session, on subjects of educa-

tional interest, and were listened to with  
pleasure, both by the teachers and citi-  
zens. Professor Andrews, of Marietta,

delivered a very practical lecture on the  
duties of teachers and parents, and of  
those who are less directly interested in

the public schools. He dwelt on the jus-  
tice and policy of our present school law.  
The lectures of Prof. Allen, and Prof.